

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A machine tool for machining large-area workpieces, the machine tool comprising:
 - 2 a bed;
 - 4 a column movable along one coordinate axis over the bed;
 - 6 a machining unit positioned on one side of the column next to a work area, said machining unit being movable along at least two other coordinate axes, said machining unit further comprising:
 - 8 a pivotable working spindle;
 - 10 a central support pipe and three telescopic legs positioned at an angle of approximately 120° with respect to one another; and
 - 12 a retainer supporting the pivotable working spindle, said retainer positioned next to the work area on one end of the central support pipe and rotatable about an axis of the central support pipe;
 - 14 at least one work carrier, which can be pivoted from a horizontal set-up position into a vertical machining position;
 - 16 said movable column having a central recess and a universal bearing in said recess supporting said central support pipe therein, said movable column also having three lower recesses and a universal bearing in each of the three lower recesses supporting said three telescopic legs therein.

2. The machine tool according to claim 1, and further comprising two alternating
2 working stations arranged side-by-side behind said bed.

3. The machine tool according to claim 2, further comprising at least two pivotable
2 work carriers.

4. The machine tool according to claim 3, wherein one said work carrier is in a
2 horizontal position in the one working station where set-up of the workpiece is performed.

5. The machine tool according to claim 4, wherein the other said work carrier is in a
2 vertical position in the working station where machining is performed.

6. The machine tool according to claim 2, wherein said working stations are
2 separated by a movable door.

7. The machine tool according to claim 6, wherein said movable door is a one-part
2 slidable door, which can be moved selectively in front of each work carrier.

8. The machine tool according to claim 7, wherein said movable door can be moved
2 by means of a program-controlled linear drive.

9. The machine tool according to claim 8, wherein said program-controlled linear
2 drive is selected from the group consisting of a pressure medium cylinder, an electric linear
motor, a worm gear, and a belt drive.

10. The machine tool according to claim 6, wherein a chip collector formed as a
2 continuous conically shaped trough is positioned under the work area between said bed and said
movable door.

11. The machine tool according to claim 9, wherein a chip collector formed as a
2 continuous conically shaped trough is positioned under the work area between said bed and said
vertically positioned work carrier.

12. The machine tool according to claim 1, wherein said central support pipe is
2 longitudinally slid able.